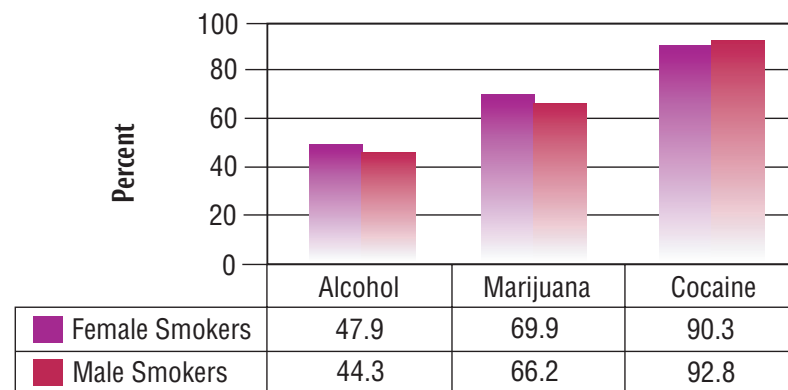


- Tobacco is usually the first drug in the sequence of drug use for young adolescents. Nationally, in 1999 9% [1] and in 2000 7% [2] of high school students smoked their first cigarette by age 11.
- Children who smoke at an early age when compared to those who don't are: [3]
 - 3 times more likely to use marijuana
 - 4 times more likely to use cocaine
- In Hawai'i, 91% of high school and middle school students think people can get addicted to using tobacco just like getting addicted to cocaine or heroin. [4]
- Nationally, youths age 12-17 who currently smoked cigarettes were 11 times more likely to use illicit drugs and 16 times more likely to drink heavily than nonsmoking youths. [5]
- In 1999, among America's youths that used illicit drugs in the past month 41% were tobacco smokers, and 6% were non-smokers. [6]
- Frequent users of smokeless tobacco are: [3]
 - 4 times more likely to use marijuana on a regular basis
 - 3 times more likely to ever try cocaine
 - 3 times more likely to ever try inhalants
- Among the adult population of drug abusers, over 2/3 are regular smokers. Research has shown that when drug abusers who regularly smoke have a craving for nicotine, their cravings for illicit drugs also increase. [8]

Percent of U.S. Young Adults, 18-24 yrs Who Smoked Cigarettes Preceding Substance Use, 1997-1998



Substance Used

Data Source: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services- Women and Smoking:
A Report of the Surgeon General

- Researches have suggested that cigarettes are complements to other illegal substances. As the price of cigarettes increase, usage of cigarettes could also decrease and thus decrease alcohol and drug use. [9]

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